

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
January 18, 2018

OFFICE OF SAFE AND ORDERLY SCHOOLS

- F. Approve proposed land site for construction of the new Northwest Rankin High School

Background Information: Pursuant to Section 37-7-315, Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, the Rankin County School District requests approval of a site for the construction of a new Northwest Rankin High School (tenth through twelfth grade with an enrollment of approximately 1,200 students) located on approximately 40 acres on Sixteenth Section property on Mississippi Highway 25, Rankin, Mississippi.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

§ 37-7-315. Designation of school buildings and attendance centers.

In creating school districts under the provisions of Article 1 of this chapter, it shall not be necessary that the school board, in the order creating such districts, specify or designate the location of the school houses or attendance centers therein, and existing school buildings shall be retained as places of attendance until changed in the manner hereinafter set forth. Where any existing facilities or buildings shall not be used as attendance centers, the school board may utilize such facilities and buildings in connection with any related school activity which said school board may deem advisable.

The school board of any school district shall have the power and authority to designate the locations for school buildings and attendance centers in the school district subject to its jurisdiction and to change, alter or abolish the location of such school buildings and attendance centers from time to time as may be required by the educational needs of such school district. Where students from three (3) or more school districts are in attendance at one (1) attendance center by order of the respective school boards of the school districts, the use of the attendance center shall not be changed, altered or abolished except upon order of a majority of each of the school boards of the school districts from which pupils have been in attendance at the attendance center for the scholastic year; any acts, decisions, orders or resolutions by the school board of any such school district in conflict with this provision shall be null and void. If any change or alteration of the location of a school building or attendance center shall involve the construction of new school facilities, or the making of additions to, or the major repair, alteration or renovation of existing facilities, then such change or alteration shall not be effective until same shall have been submitted to and approved by the State Board of Education. There may be located and established in any school district as many school buildings and attendance centers as the educational needs of such district shall require. The school board of the school district shall have the power and authority to specify the attendance areas which shall be served by each school building or attendance center, and to change or alter same from time to time as necessity requires.

Sources: Codes, 1942, § 6328-05; Laws, 1953, Ex Sess, ch. 12, § 5; Laws, 1960, ch. 303; Laws, 1986, ch. 492, § 15, eff from and after July 1, 1987.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL SITE

Regardless of the source of funds, new school facilities shall not be constructed on any new site until the site has been submitted to and approved by the Mississippi Board of Education. School sites will be approved according to the criteria established by the Mississippi Board of Education.

One of the most important steps in the new building program is the selection of an adequate site. The site should be convenient to streets and roads and should be planned so as to avoid traffic hazards. It is recommended that an elementary school should have 5 acres of land with one additional acre for each 100 students enrolled. A high school site should have at least 15 acres of land with one additional acre for each 100 students enrolled. The following minimum requirements must be met or exceptions noted and approved:

1. The site serves an area with enough children (present and future) to warrant its existence as a school center. **Yes**
2. The site is located in a reasonable proximity to the present and future school population. **Yes**
3. The site environment is free of the odors, dust, dirt, noise and smoke that are usually associated with factories, stockyards, railroads, mills, agricultural chemical aerial spraying, etc. The site is free of hazardous waste. **Yes**
4. Public utilities such as electric power, water, sewerage, telephone, fire protection and gas service are available to the site. **Yes**
5. The size of the site is sufficient to provide adequately for the educational program of both the present and the anticipated future. **Yes**
6. The site grounds are at sufficient elevation to prevent flooding or standing water. **Yes**
7. The sub-soil conditions are such that foundations, footings, athletic fields and lagoons can be built. **Yes**
8. The site can be purchased at a fair market price. Copies of two certified appraisals of the land must be attached whenever the purchase price is greater than \$50,000.00. Please refer to MS Code 1972, Annotated, 37-7-301(aa). **N/A**
9. A survey plat of the property is provided with this application. **Yes**
10. The proposed new school site is plotted on the school district map and is provided with this application. **Yes**
11. The site is accessible by both vehicles and pedestrians. **Yes**

*An electronic version of this form is available at
http://www.healthyschoolsms.org/healthy_school_environment/buildinggrounds.htm.*

Exceptions to the above minimum requirements must be noted and explained in detail.

Existing High School Athletic Fields and Associated parking will be utilized.

Additional information for proposed new school site:

1. Physical location of the proposed site HWY 25 on RCSD 16 Section Property

2. Grades to be housed/served 10, 11, & 12
3. Student enrollment count currently 1,200 10th, 11th & 12th
4. Is the proposed new site located on 16th section land owned by the school district?
☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how many acres are available? ± 40 Acres

If no, please describe the financing of the site purchase or explain how the land was acquired and the number of acres available for the proposed school site.
(attach documentation)

N/A

5. Will the school district have fee simple title?

☒ Yes

☐ No

6. Is there organized opposition to the proposed site based on, but not limited to, the location of the school, acquisition of the land, safety issues, and/or community concerns?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please explain.

N/A

7. Please provide justification of the need for the proposed school site.

Rankin County School District's use of the above described 16th section lands for construction would result in a major savings to the Rankin County School District and taxpayers compared to purchase of a similar site which would be very expensive and unnecessary since the described site is available, unleased and strategically located in the Northwest Attendance Zone.

CERTIFICATION

We, the President of the Board of Education/Trustees and the Superintendent of the

_____ School District hereby certify to the Mississippi Board of Education that this Evaluation of Proposed New School Site for the construction of

_____ School location at _____
(street or rural route, city)

meets the minimum requirements previously stated or exceptions have been properly noted. Further, this Evaluation of Proposed New School Site has been duly adopted and approved by the Board of Education/Trustees of the _____ School District as evidenced by action taken by the Board of Education/Trustees of the _____ School District at an official board meeting held on the

_____ Day of _____, _____.

President

Ann Sturdivant (Print)
Ann Sturdivant (Sign)
12/13/17 (Date)

Superintendent

Jim Townsend (Print)
Jim Townsend (Sign)
12/13/17 (Date)

School Board Attorney

Ray A. Hamill (Print)
Ray A. Hamill (Sign)
12-13-17 (Date)

Sharon Patrick

Notary Public

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this
the 13th day of December, 2017.







